

# Foramen Ovale Electrode

## A New Approach in Clinical Usefulness of Foramen Ovale Electrode in Epilepsy Surgery

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**Background :** Foramen ovale electrode(FOE) was introduced for the lateralizing purposes of mesio-temporal lobe(MTL) seizures which were often not clearly identified by extracranial EEGs. An analysis of interictal and ictal EEG features recorded from FOE was conducted to evaluate its clinical usefulness. **Methods :** A multipolar, three-contact FOE was implanted bilaterally in 16 intractable epileptic patients for the lateralizing purposes of a MTL onset of seizures due to the evidence of bilateralities recorded from extracranial EEGs. A detailed analysis of the electrical pattern and temporal relationships in 16 patients was conducted. **Results :** After a long-term telemetry recording with FOE, all patients revealed a clear onset of seizures originating from one or both sides of the MTL and underwent ATL. The lateralization of interictal epileptiform discharges (IEDs) in scalp EEG and FOE were concordant with the operation sites in 12 patients and 8 patients respectively. Among various configurations of IEDs recorded from FOE, periodic spikes or sharp waves with/without fast activities were dominant features in the operation site, but polyspikes, isolated spikes or sharp waves, and positive spikes were more common in the non-operation site. Five patients showed ictal onset discharges concordant with the operation site in the scalp EEG, but 10 patients in FOE. Rhythmic fast beta, alpha frequency activity, repetitive spikes or sharp waves prevailed over other FOE seizure onset patterns in the operation site, but delta and theta slowing, positive spikes prevailed in the non-operation site. A "start-stop-start" pattern was 100% concordant with the operation site. The time interval between bilateral FOE recorded ictal onset was 16.53 sec when the ictal discharge started from the operation site and 7.92 sec when started from the non-operation site. The time interval between FOE and scalp EEG ictal onset was 22.82 sec in the operation site and 8.61 sec in the non-operation site. Among various spreading patterns of ictal epileptiform discharge, FOE  $\rightarrow$  contralateral FOE  $\rightarrow$  ipsilateral temporal lobe, or  $\rightarrow$  contralateral temporal lobe was the most common feature(47.71%). No serious complications resulted from implantation of FOE in this series. **Conclusions :** Our results indicated that FOE was very useful in confirming the laterality of MTL. The configurations of IEDs and ictal discharges recorded from FOE were also useful for further determination of lateralization. The "start-stop-start" pattern of ictal discharges was especially a quite reliable marker, which should be cautiously detected during the analysis of ictal events. FOE could also provide useful information about the spreading patterns of ictal discharges.

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**Key Words :** Foramen Ovale Electrode, Configuration, "Start-Stop-Start" Pattern, Laterality, Spreading Pattern

FOE (foramen ovale electrode) 1985

Wieser가

가

<sup>1</sup>,

(semiinvasive)

,

가

<sup>2</sup>,

(depth

electrode)

(subdural electrode)

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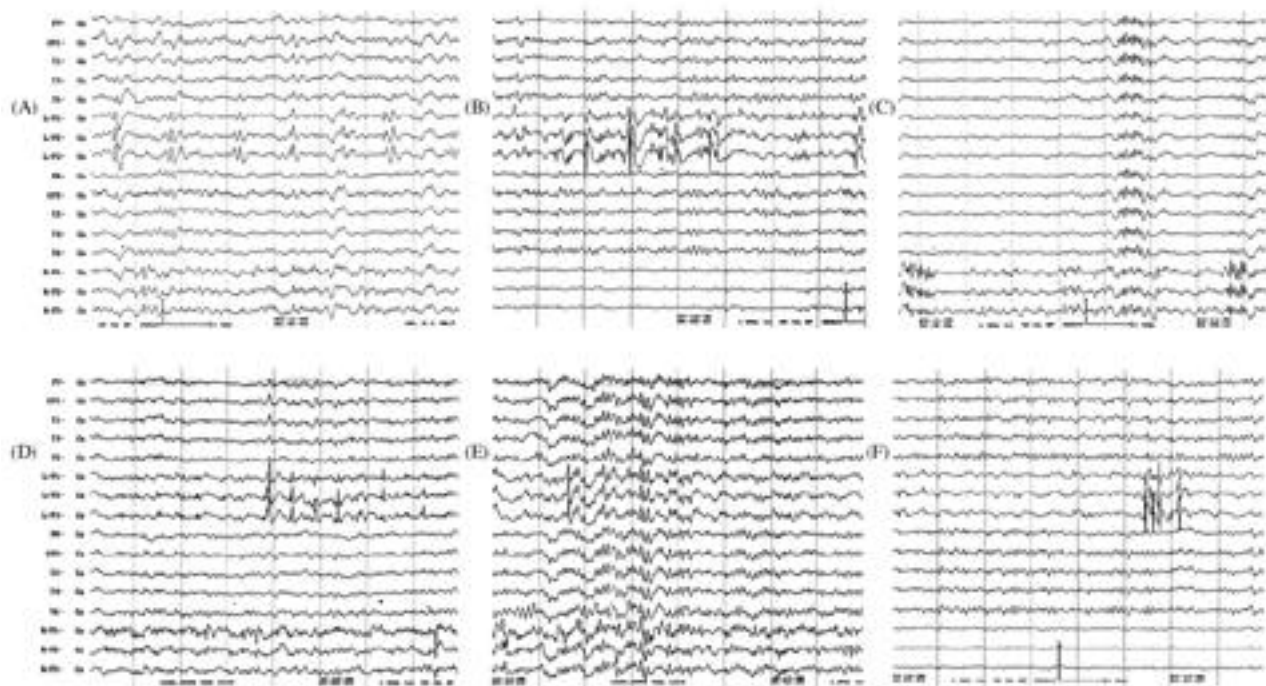
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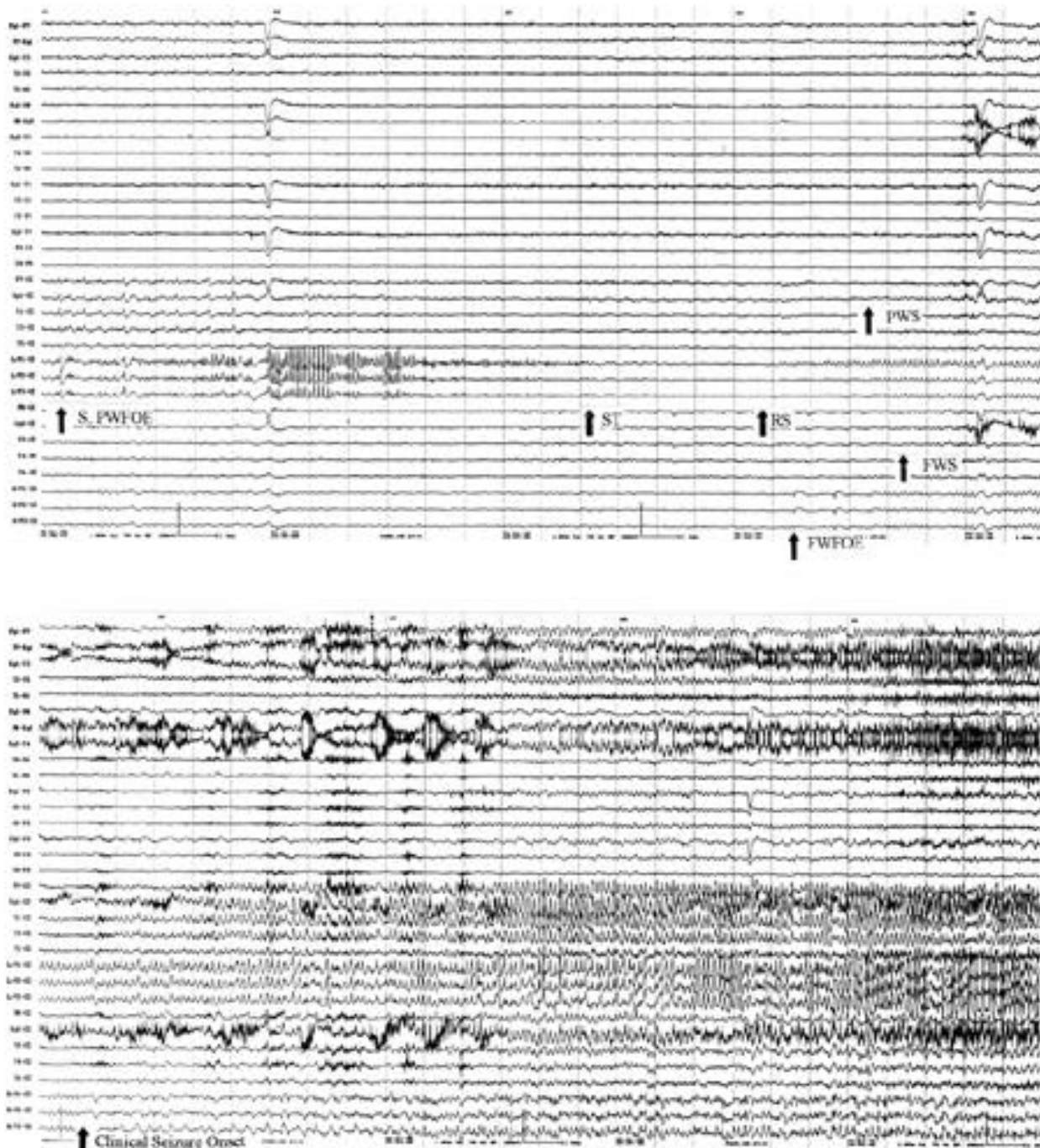
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3 video-  
24 1  
FOE  
, 80%  
FOE , FOE lateralization  
가  
video-  
1991 1996 ( 30 )  
, rhythmic activity가 3  
FOE Lee  
3 가  
video-  
(sphenoidal electrode) (anterior (unilateral TLE), 가  
temporal electrode) (semiology) (bilateral TLE),  
(semiology) non-lateralized  
, FOE 1)  
가 grouped spikes or sharp waves (3Hz  
가 ) 2) isolated spikes or sharp waves (3Hz  
FOE 3 contact flexible electrode 가 3 ) 3) periodic  
fluoroscope spikes or sharp waves (1~3Hz 가  
skull x-ray 3 1Hz 가 3  
) 4) periodic spikes or sharp waves  
with fast activities (3)+fast activities 5) poly-  
spikes (wave 200msec mul-  
multiple spikes) 6) positive spikes (negative spike



**Figure 1.** Configuration of interictal epileptiform discharges expressed in foramen ovale electrode. a) periodic spikes or sharp waves, b) periodic spikes or sharp waves+fast activities, c) polyspikes, d) positive spikes, e) isolated spikes or sharp waves, f) grouped spikes or sharp waves.

spikes) (Fig. 1). 가 (unilateral TLE), 80% major , 가 (bilateral minor FOE TLE), non-lateralized rhythmic (preceding wave:PW) discharge가 3 (following wave:FW) (Fig. 2). 가 가 가 FOE 가 가 가



**Figure 2.** Complex partial seizure presenting “start-stop-start” pattern in a patient with left temporal lobectomy. S: start; ST: stop; RS: restart, PWFOE: preceding wave in FOE; FWFOE: following wave in FOE; PWS: preceding wave in scalp; FWS: following wave in scalp.

Table 1. Lateralization of interictal EEG.

Case	Scalp interictal		FOE interictal lateralization	Operation site	Surgical outcome*
	Lt	Rt			
1	90		Rt	Lt	I
2	90		Lt	Lt	I
3	90		Lt	Lt	I
4		90	Rt	Rt	I
5	20	80	Rt	Rt	I
6		90	Lt	Rt	II
7	50	50	Lt	Rt	I
8		90	Rt	Rt	II
9		90	Rt	Rt	I
10	60	40	Lt	Lt	I
11	30	70	Lt	Lt	II
12	20	80	non-lateralized	Lt	I
13		90	non-lateralized	Rt	II
14	80	20	Lt	Lt	I
15	90		non-lateralized	Lt	I
16	90		non-lateralized	Lt	II

\* surgical outcome by Engel’s classification  
FOE : foramen ovale electrode

Table 2. Configuration of interictal epileptiform discharge in FOE

Case	Operation site		Opposite site	
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
1	1,5,6	4	3,4	5
2	2	3,5	3	4
3	1	3	5	3
4	2		3,4	1
5	1	3,4	1,3	4,5
6	5	1	3	5
7	5	4	3	4,5
8	1,6	2,3	3,4,5	
9	1	2,3,4	5	
10	2	3,4	1,5	
11	2	3	5	
12	2	1,3,4	4,5	
13	5		5	4
14	1,4,5		4,5	
15	6	1	3	1,4,5
16	1		1	3

1 : periodic spikes or sharp waves, 2 : periodic spikes or sharp waves+fast activities, 3 : polyspikes, 4 : positive spikes, 5 : isolated spikes or sharp waves, 6 : grouped spikes or sharp waves

“start-stop-start” pattern  
FO  
가  
Table 1  
가 90%

가 (Engel’s classification I & II),

가  
16 , 1:1  
26.86 , 14.19  
가  
12.44  
1)  
16 13  
, 12 92%  
(Table 1).  
2) FOE  
16 12 가 가 8  
(67%) , 4

(Table 1).  
FOE  
가  
periodic spikes or sharp waves , iso-  
lated spikes or sharp waves, periodic spikes or  
sharp waves with fast activities ,  
가 polyspikes, iso-  
lated spikes or sharp waves, positive spikes  
(Table 2).

**Table 3.** Lateralization of ictal onset in scalp EEG without FOE

Case	Lt	Rt	Non-lateralizing			Total	Laterality	Operation site
			Symmetric	Diffuse->Lt	Diffuse->Rt			
1	2	3				5	BTLE	Lt
2		1	1	1	8	11	UTLE	Lt
3	4		1		4	9	UTLE	Lt
4		6	6	4	11	27	UTLE	Rt
5			7		1	8	N-L	Rt
6	3	1	7	1		12	BTLE	Rt
7			2		1	3	N-L	Rt
8		2	1			3	UTLE	Rt
9	1	1	3		2	7	BTLE	Rt
10	6		2			8	UTLE	Lt
11		1	3	1		5	UTLE	Lt
12			1			1	N-L	Lt
13	1	1	8	1	2	13	BTLE	Rt
14	2			13		15	UTLE	Lt
15			19			19	N-L	Lt
16		6	3		3	12	UTLE	Lt

BTLE:bilateral temporal lobe epilepsy, UTLE:unilateral temporal lobe epilepsy, N-L:non-lateralized

**Table 4.** Lateralization of ictal onset in scalp EEG with FOE

Case	Lt FOE	Rt FOE	Diffuse	Laterality	OP site
1	6	2	2	BTLE	Lt
2	6		3	UTLE	Lt
3	9			UTLE	Lt
4		17		UTLE	Rt
5		7	1	UTLE	Rt
6		6		UTLE	Rt
7	2	7	1	BTLE	Rt
8		4	1	UTLE	Rt
9		1		UTLE	Rt
10	10	3		BTLE	Lt
11	5			UTLE	Lt
12	3		3	UTLE	Lt
13	4	3		BTLE	Rt
14	4			UTLE	Lt
15	9	2	2	BTLE	Lt
16			6	N-L	Lt

BTLE : bilateral temporal lobe epilepsy,  
UTLE : unilateral temporal lobe epilepsy,  
N-L:non-lateralized

1) .  
가 가  
. 8 ,  
5  
31.25% . 4  
, 4 nonlateralized (Table 3).  
2) FOE  
a) FOE  
10 가  
, 5 가  
, 1  
. neuroimaging (MRI, PET,  
SPECT) Wada test가  
b) FOE  
FOE 가 가  
가 97 , 가 13 ,  
FOE 가 19  
(Table 4). FOE PW FW  
. FOE PW fast , repeti-  
tive spikes or sharp waves, & slowing, repeti-  
tive spikes or sharp waves with fast  
, FW & slowing  
, fast , positive spikes  
, FW PW frequency가  
. PW FW &  
slowing 가 , PW positive  
spikes가 FW repetitive spikes or sharp waves  
with fast 가 (Table 5).

c) "start-stop-start" pattern  
"start-stop-start" pattern 5 24  
가 , 100% 가  
start  
fast , repetitive spikes or  
sharp waves with fast , without fast  
, stop FOE start  
2 22 & slowing  
. , stop 가  
FOE 가 6 , FOE

Table 5. Configuration of ictal discharge in FOE.

	Operation site onset		Opposite site onset		Bilateral onset
	PW	FW	PW	FW	
fast $\beta$	33	12	1	1	8
$a\beta$	3	2	3		
$a$	8	7		1	2
$a$	1	3			
	13	58	6	9	2
spike or sharp wave	26	2			3
+spike		10	3		
spike or sharp+fast, $a$	12	1		2	4
spike or sharp+	1	2			

PW:preceding wave, FW:following wave

Table 6. Characteristics of “start-stop-start” pattern.

Characteristics	No.(n=24)
ictal configuration of “start”	
fast $\beta$	11
$a$	1
	1
spike or sharp wave	4
spike or sharp+fast, $a$	5
spike or sharp+	2
initiating site after “stop”	
ipsilateral FOE	6
contralateral FOE or scalp	15
bilateral onset	3

Table 7. Spreading pattern of ictal discharge.

Ictal spreading pattern	Operation site onset	Opposite site onset
FO -> FO -> ipsi/contra S	28	4
FO -> FO -> ipsi S -> contra S	18	2
FO -> all	11	2
FO -> ipsi S -> contra S -> FO	11	
FO -> ipsi S/contra S -> FO	7	1
FO -> ipsi S -> FO/contra S	7	
FO -> ipsi S -> FO -> contra S	5	1
FO -> FO -> contra S-> ipsi S	4	1
FO -> contra S -> ipsi S -> FO	3	
FO -> FO/ipsi S -> contra S	1	1
FO -> FO/contra S -> ipsi S		1
FO -> ipsi S -> FO/contra S	1	
FO/ipsi S->FO/contra S	1	

FO : foramen ovale, ipsi S : ipsilateral scalp, contra S : contralateral scalp

Table 8. Time interval between electrodes.

	Operation site onset (sec)	Opposite site onset (sec)
FOE-FOE	16.53	7.92
FOE-ipsilateral scalp	23.18	8.92
FOE-contralateral scalp	24.37	9.08
FOE-fast scalp	22.82	8.61

가 15 , FOE 가  
3 (Table 6).  
d)  
1 FOE가 , 가  
FOE ,  
(Table 7).  
가  
가  
FOE  
16.53 , 7.92 , FOE  
23.18 , 8.92 , FOE  
24.7 9.08 ,  
(Table 8).

FOE Wieser가 1985 ,  
가 1986  
1990 5% ,  
21% ,<sup>4,5</sup>  
가 가 .<sup>4,6</sup>  
, 1987  
. <sup>7,8</sup> FOE 3-4 contact  
,  
FOE  
9-12 ,  
FOE  
가 , FOE  
artifact free  
13 ,  
FOE  
SEEG 가  
2,6,14

FOE가  
가 (amygdala)  
closed electrical field  
가  
가?  
가  
가  
FOE  
가  
FOE  
가  
stereotactic depth electrode  
가  
secondary pacemaker 가  
가  
FOE  
가  
9%  
가  
2,15,16 2%  
가  
15,16 1  
(transient upper  
pontine syndrome)  
가  
4 2  
FOE  
FOE  
가  
FOE  
가  
17  
가  
FOE  
18-20  
가  
FOE  
(80% ) 92%, FOE 67%가  
FOE  
가  
periodic spikes or  
sharp waves, periodic spikes or sharp waves +  
fast activities, grouped spikes가,  
polyspikes, positive spike, isolated spikes or  
sharp waves가 isolated

spikes or sharp waves  
spikes  
or sharp waves grouped spikes가  
(frequency)  
가  
FOE  
FOE  
decrement, high frequency - low amplitude spike discharge, spike-wave or sharp-wave complexes, 5~10Hz sinusoidal rhythms , 가  
high frequency - low amplitude discharge pattern, hypersynchronous seizure onset pattern ,<sup>6</sup>  
decrement  
FOE , 3~5 high  
frequency discharge가 가  
stereotactic depth recording  
high frequency, low  
amplitude discharge  
FOE PW  
fast  
repetitive spike or sharp waves가 ,  
FW & slowing  
가  
PW 가  
positive spikes가 , FW PW  
repetitive spike or sharp waves가  
FOE  
FOE  
가 “start-stop-start” pattern 100%  
“start-stop-start” pattern Blume  
Kaibara ,<sup>21</sup>  
FOE  
start (50 /62 )  
rhythmic wave , FOE spikes or sharp  
waves가 가 45.8%  
가 restart FOE & slowing  
Restart  
가 가  
가 가  
4% , FOE 75%  
FOE restart 가  
“start-stop-start” pattern  
가

start " pattern restart가 . "Start-stop-  
가 acidic pH shift, 가 hyperpolarising K<sup>+</sup>  
currents, NA<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase pump , adeno-  
sine 가  
pyramidal neuron large depolarization  
electrical stimulation long-loop  
reverberating circuit  
가  
FOE  
, 4, FOE  
가 가  
, 가 (hippocampal com-  
missure)  
가 가  
FOE , FOE , FOE  
16.53 , 23.18 , 24.7  
7.92 , 8.92 , 9.08  
가  
가  
가  
가  
FOE  
1. FOE  
2. FOE  
periodic spikes or sharp  
waves with/without fast activities, grouped spikes  
, polyspikes, positive  
spikes, isolated spikes or sharp waves .  
3. FOE PW fast  
, repetitive spikes or sharp waves with/with-  
out fast activities가 , FW &

slowing FW PW  
가  
4. FOE "start-stop-start " pattern

5. , 가  
(hippocampal commissure)

6. 가

FOE

가

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